IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors:	Albert H. Mitchell Jr.; Pritesh N. Patel; April Chou; Mauricio Arregoces; Christopher Spain		
Assignee:	Cisco Technology, Inc.		
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FAST LINK FAILOVER		
Application No.:	10/814,572	Filing Date:	March 31, 2004
Examiner:	Habte Mered	Group Art Unit:	2474
Docket No.:	CIS0215US	Confirmation No.:	6923

Austin, Texas
May 16, 2012

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, as set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated **February 16, 2012**. In this statement, the Examiner provided reasons for allowance of claims **1-10, 13-20, 23-30, 33-45, and 51-66**, and listed elements purportedly taught and not taught by the cited references. See Notice of Allowance, pp. 3-4.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the allowance of claims 1-10, 13-20, 23-30, 33-45, and 51-66. However, Applicants respectfully note that numerous other points of distinction exist between the cited references and the claims, in addition to those stated in the foregoing passages and elsewhere during the prosecution of the instant application.

Thus, Applicants feel compelled to submit, respectfully, the following additional observations. Independent claim 1, which is representative of the remaining independent claims, reads as follows:

1. A method comprising:

detecting a failure of a first link, wherein

said first link is coupled between a first port of a network element and an
upstream portion of a communications network,

said first link comprises a first part of a communications channel between said
upstream portion of said communications network and a downstream
portion of said communications network, and

said first port is associated with a virtual network,;

in response to said detecting said failure of said first link,

identifying a second port of said network element that is associated with said
virtual network, wherein

a second link is coupled between said second port of said network element
and said downstream portion of said communications network, and

said second link comprises a second part of said communications channel,
and

disabling said second port of said network element;

in response to detecting a recovery of said first link, re-enabling said second port of said
network element; and

in response to said re-enabling said second port, said communications channel failing
back to said first link and said second link.

Moreover, even while accepting the allowed claims in their present form, Applicants do not (and need not) agree with the characterizations espoused by the Examiner, whether in the Notice of Allowance, or at other points during the prosecution of these claims (and indeed, during the prosecution of the claims in the parent case of the present application). In so stating,

then, Applicants maintain their position with regard to the cited references, as presented during the prosecution of this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance fails to accurately and completely characterize the language of the claims in at least with respect to the foregoing. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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